

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 **Claim 1 (currently amended):** An image recording and
2 reproducing apparatus for recording and reproducing a multiple
3 picture signal obtained by multiplexing picture signals from a
4 plurality of cameras via a frame switcher such that said
5 multiple picture signal is comprised of a series of frames
6 alternating between said plurality of cameras, said image
7 recording and reproducing apparatus having a skip-reproduction
8 feature for alternating skipping of n frames of said multiple
9 picture signal and continuous reproduction of m frames of said
10 multiple picture signal wherein n is a positive integer, and m
11 is a positive integer related to a frame switching pattern,
12 wherein said apparatus skips said frames without reading the
13 contents of the multiple picture signal.

1 **Claim 2 (previously presented):** The image recording and
2 reproducing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said
3 number of frames to be skipped is changed during skip
4 reproduction.

1 **Claim 3 (original):** The image recording and reproducing
2 apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said number of frames
3 are changed to $(n-d)$ ($2 \leq d < n$, d is a positive integer) in case
4 said number of frames is decreased.

1 **Claim 4 (original):** The image recording and reproducing
2 apparatus according to claim 1, wherein at least m frames are
3 continuously reproduced at the end of a reconstructed image.

1 **Claim 5 (original):** The image recording and reproducing
2 apparatus according to claim 1, wherein at least m frames are
3 continuously reproduced at the beginning of a reproduction
4 image.

1 **Claim 6 (previously presented):** The image recording and
2 reproducing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said skip-
3 reproduction feature is implemented by a process including a
4 skip processing step for recognizing said frames and a
5 reproduction processing step for performing reproduction and
6 output of said frames.

1 **Claim 7. (previously presented):** The image recording and
2 reproducing apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said skip-
3 reproduction feature is implemented by a skipping of n frames
4 and a subsequent reproduction of m frames.

1 **Claim 8 (previously presented):** The image recording and
2 reproducing apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said skip-
3 reproduction feature is implemented by a forward skipping of a
4 series of (n+m) frames, a reverse skipping of m frames, and a
5 reproduction of m frames.

1 **Claim 9 (currently amended):** The image recording and
2 reproducing apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said
3 subsequent reproduction ~~of a reconstructed image~~ is performed
4 on m frames up to a final frame of the reconstructed image
5 when the difference between a frame just before start of said
6 skipping and the final frame of the reconstructed image is
7 equal to or greater than m frames and smaller than or equal to
8 (n+m) frames.

1 **Claim 10 (previously presented):** The image recording and
2 reproducing apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said
3 reproduction is performed up to a final frame of a
4 reconstructed image when the difference between a frame of the
5 reconstructed image just before start of said skipping and the
6 final frame of the reconstructed image is smaller than m
7 frames.

1 **Claim 11 (previously presented):** The image recording and
2 reproducing apparatus according to claim 8, wherein reverse
3 skipping of a maximum of m frames is performed within the
4 number of skipped frames in the immediately preceding
5 processing, when a final frame of an image is reached during
6 said skipping.

1 **Claim 12 (original):** The image recording and reproducing
2 apparatus according to claim 7, wherein adjustment is made to
3 set the remaining number of frames to a multiple of $(n+m)$ at
4 start of said skip reproduction feature and when the number of
5 frames n to be skipped is changed during skip reproduction.

1 **Claim 13 (previously presented):** The image recording and
2 reproducing apparatus according to claim 8, wherein adjustment
3 is made to set a remaining number of frames to a multiple of
4 $(n+m)$ at start of said skip reproduction feature and when the
5 number of frames n to be skipped is changed during skip
6 reproduction.

1 **Claim 14 (original):** The image recording and reproducing
2 apparatus according to claim 1, wherein reproduction is
3 suspended after continuous reproduction of said predetermined
4 m frames when suspension of reproduction is instructed during
5 execution of said skip reproduction feature.

1 **Claim 15 (currently amended):** An image reproducing
2 apparatus for reproducing a multiple picture signal obtained
3 by multiplexing picture signals from a plurality of cameras
4 via a frame switcher such that said multiple picture signal is
5 comprised of a series of frames alternating between said
6 plurality of cameras, said image reproducing apparatus having
7 a skip-reproduction feature for alternating skipping of n
8 frames of said multiple picture signal and continuous
9 reproduction of m frames of said multiple picture signal,
10 wherein n is a positive integer, and m is a positive integer
11 related to a frame switching pattern, wherein said apparatus
12 skips said frames without reading the contents of the multiple
13 picture signal.

1 **Claim 16 (previously presented):** An image reproducing
2 method for skip reproducing a multiple picture signal obtained
3 by multiplexing picture signals from a plurality of cameras
4 via a frame switcher such that said multiple picture signal is
5 comprised of a series of frames alternating between said
6 plurality of cameras, said image reproducing method comprising
7 the steps of:
8 skipping n frames of said multiple picture signal;
9 continuously reproducing m frames of said multiple
10 picture signal, wherein n is a positive integer, and m is a
11 positive integer; and

12 repeating said skipping and continuous reproducing.

1 **Claim 17 (previously presented):** An image reproducing
2 method for skip reproducing a multiple picture signal obtained
3 by multiplexing picture signals from a plurality of cameras
4 via a frame switcher, said image reproducing method comprising
5 the steps of:

6 forward skipping $n+m$ frames of said multiple picture
7 signal, then reverse skipping m frames of said multiple
8 picture signal, and then continuous reproducing m frames of
9 said multiple picture signal; and

10 repeating said skipping, reverse skipping and continuous
11 reproducing, wherein

12 n is a positive integer, and m is a positive integer.